United Nations S/2008/640

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 October 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 2 September 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour of addressing you regarding the meeting of the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Ministers of Defence of the 2 x 9 Mechanism on Haiti, which took place on 29 August in Montevideo, Uruguay.

In that respect, I am attaching the communiqué released at that meeting (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) José Luis **Cancela**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations

08-54262 (E) 091008 091008

Annex to the letter dated 2 September 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Spanish]

Meeting of Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Ministers for Defence of the "2 x 9 Mechanism" on Haiti

Montevideo, Uruguay, 29 August 2008

Joint communiqué

The meeting of the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Ministers of Defence of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, the Latin American countries that contribute troops to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), was held in Montevideo, Uruguay on 29 August 2008. Also present were representatives of the Government of Haiti (Patrick Ellie, head of the Presidential Security Commission), of the two current Latin American members of the Security Council (Costa Rica and Panama), and of Mexico and Colombia as observers, together with the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative in Haiti, Luiz Carlos Da Costa, and the Secretary for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS), Dante Caputo.

The Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Ministers of Defence of the "2 x 9 Mechanism":

1. Reaffirmed their support for the Government of President René Préval owing to its determination to take up the challenges posed by the problems relating to Haiti's security, institutional reconstruction and socio-economic recovery, in an inclusive and democratic manner.

2. Welcomed the appointment of Michele Pierre-Louis as the new Prime Minister and urged all political leaders to help form a new Government as soon as possible in order to continue the tasks of public administration that, with the support of the international community, would advance the internal stabilization process, consolidate the significant progress made in recent years, and continue the work of identifying sustainable solutions to the urgent problems still faced by the people of Haiti. They encouraged continued dialogue and the shaping of a broad democratic consensus that included leaders of the country's productive sector.

3. Expressed their conviction that foremost responsibility for the sustainability of achievements in the area of security, and institutional and socio-economic development in Haiti lay with the Government and people of Haiti, with the support of MINUSTAH during the current stage. In that regard, they reiterated their view that the mandate should be renewed for twelve months and stated that, under the terms of reference outlined in Security Council resolutions 1542 (2004), 1608 (2005), 1702 (2006), 1743 (2007) and 1780 (2007), MINUSTAH should gradually realign its priorities, as the situation in the country evolved. They proposed that MINUSTAH should play a larger role in activities to strengthen the country's institutions and production infrastructure. They endorsed the work of Peru in coordinating the Group of Friends of Haiti within the Security Council to promote

the renewal of the Mission's mandate, and thanked Costa Rica and Panama for their full collaboration in this regard.

4. Noted that the progress made in building institutional capacity and strengthening public administration should be intensified significantly. Accordingly, they invited the Haitian authorities to continue adopting the necessary measures to ensure that the public institutions functioned normally and efficiently as soon as possible.

5. Reaffirmed their total support for the work of MINUSTAH in assisting the Haitian Government and people, while expressing their firm decision to continue helping to improve security, protect and promote human rights, and build institutional capacity, which are all essential pillars for enhancing the democratic governance of the country and laying the foundation for sustainable, just and equitable economic development. They urged the countries participating in the Mechanism to consider increasing the number of women in their national contingents to MINUSTAH. They also advocated the adoption, within the framework of MINUSTAH, of initiatives designed to enhance socio-economic development, such as the creation, announced by Peru and Argentina, of a joint group of military engineers to provide the Haitian people with increased access to potable water and to improve road infrastructure.

6. Welcomed the adoption of a new electoral law and expressed their hope that the forthcoming elections to renew one-third of the Senate would be held shortly.

7. Noted that the collaboration between MINUSTAH and the Haitian National Police had contributed significantly to stabilizing security in the country's urban areas, especially in Port-au-Prince; nevertheless, they were concerned that the security situation was still fragile in some parts of the country.

8. Expressed their full support for the Haitian authorities in their actions to strengthen the rule of law and the country's institutions, and reiterated their support for initiatives to combat corruption, drug-trafficking and impunity. They welcomed the progress made in reforming the justice system, particularly the adoption of the relevant legislation, and urged the Haitian authorities to collaborate in the overall reform of the Judiciary, the Haitian National Police and the prison system.

9. Underscored the efforts made by the Haitian Government, in close collaboration with MINUSTAH, to enhance the professionalization of the Haitian National Police in accomplishing its task of protecting the population and urged donor countries to increase their support for the Haitian National Police by providing or loaning appropriate equipment and specialized training systems.

10. Welcomed the joint efforts of the Haitian authorities and MINUSTAH to manage and secure Haiti's land borders. At the same time, they considered that there had been limited progress in securing the maritime borders. In this regard, they welcomed and expressed their appreciation for the contribution of the Uruguayan Government, which had sent a reconnaissance aircraft, and for the deployment of 16 patrol boats in Haiti to support the strategy of integrated management of the country's borders, reinforce border security in the country and, consequently, reduce human trafficking and the illicit trafficking in arms, drugs and contraband, and increase tax collection and income, which would translate into substantial improvements for the Haitian population.

11. Emphasized the need for MINUSTAH to continue building its capacity to implement the aspect of its mandate relating to providing support for strengthening the State apparatus. They urged the Haitian authorities to make the fullest possible use of this capacity in order to strengthen Haiti's institutions and improve the effectiveness, transparency and quality of public administration.

12. Expressed their support for the collaboration that MINUSTAH provides to the Haitian State to reduce community violence, particularly the labour-intensive projects implemented by MINUSTAH.

13. Stressed that, while the food and energy crisis is a global challenge, in Haiti, its effects are particularly severe and could undermine much of the progress achieved in recent years. They expressed concern over the fact that the crisis has been used by those seeking to destabilize the country.

14. Affirmed the importance of continued support for MINUSTAH activities relating to quick impact projects, as a mechanism to provide a fast response to the country's basic needs.

15. Emphasized that the socio-economic development of Haiti and, consequently, the country's stability, called for sustained cooperation from the international community; therefore, they again urged donors to increase their support to the country through the relevant bilateral, regional and multilateral mechanisms. They also advocated effective coordination between the Haitian Government, MINUSTAH and donors so as to ensure the satisfactory management of cooperation in the country.

16. Welcomed the work of the Organization of American States (OAS) and, in particular, its support for the process of improving public administration in Haiti and for preparing the Haitian civil status register. They also urged OAS and the United Nations to continue working together on electoral and security issues and national capacity-building.

17. Expressed their support for the recently-announced Security Council visit to Haiti, which would allow the Council to observe first hand the country's most pressing needs. They also stated that representatives of the "2 x 9 Mechanism" should accompany this visit.

18. Welcomed the spirit of cooperation and solidarity with which the MINUSTAH Latin American contingents carried out their task of stabilizing the country and laying the foundations for its political, economic and social recovery. At the same time, they reaffirmed their commitment to the people and Government of Haiti and to the Stabilization Mission.

19. Affirmed their interest in seeing other Latin American countries joining MINUSTAH, reflecting their willingness to collaborate in the development and stabilization of Haiti.

20. Expressed their appreciation for the work of the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Haiti, Hédi Annabi, and for his contribution to the work of the coordination mechanism.

21. Accepted by acclamation the offer of Paraguay to host the next meeting of the "2 x 9 Mechanism".

22. Expressed their appreciation to the people and Government of Uruguay for their hospitality during the meeting.

23. Entrusted the Government of Uruguay with the task of transmitting the observations of the members of the Mechanism, including the following, to the Government of Haiti and to the United Nations, through the Security Council and the Secretary-General:

I. We consider that, to date, MINUSTAH has made significant progress in its core task of helping to restore stability and establish a security; as a consequence, and unlike the situation four years ago, the Haitian State, through a democratic Government, the outcome of free elections observed by the international community, exercises authority throughout the country.

II. We conclude that the MINUSTAH mandate to promote lasting security is making progress, largely owing to specific training activities to support and strengthen the national security agencies. We therefore believe that the international community's Mission should envisage a new phase, where the emphasis would be placed on helping build the State's institutional capacity, and making substantial progress in the areas of social and economic development, basic services, administration of justice and infrastructure.

III. It is essential to ensure security in order to advance towards these objectives, but it is also necessary to understand that, unless the Haitian State is really strengthened, there is political dialogue, and a basic level of human development, the conditions that prompted the United Nations to take action, will persist.

IV. We believe that the international community should maintain and increase in the medium and long terms its political and financial commitments as well as its presence on the ground. To that end, the United Nations should establish an appropriate and effective system for coordinating international cooperation and donations for Haiti, while building the capacity of the Haitian Government to enable it to direct such coordination towards the country's priorities so as to make full use of the contribution of the agencies of the United Nations system, international financial cooperation organizations, aid agencies, and countries that are donors or friends. We welcome the Haitian Government's approval of the Strategic National Growth and Poverty Reduction Document and the Haitian National Food Security and Development Programme.

V. The initial achievements of MINUSTAH require continued cooperation from the international community to achieve an enabling environment for socio-economic development.

Consequently, we hope that these observations will be reflected in the next mandate that the United Nations assigns to the Mission in Haiti, and will be taken into consideration by the countries and organizations willing to cooperate with the Government and people of Haiti.